Ministry of Agriculture

Plan for 2018-19

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Agriculture's Operational Plan for 2018-19.

Government Direction and Budget for 2018-19 is focused on keeping Saskatchewan On Track by controlling spending, delivering high quality services for Saskatchewan people, keeping our economy strong, and returning to balance in 2019-20.

Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

The 2018-19 budget for the Ministry of Agriculture is $378.6 million, including $71.2 million for strategic initiatives, $31.8 for agricultural research and $1.3 million to support agricultural events and organizations. The budget also contains $258.2 million to fund business risk management programs such as Crop Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest.

The budget supports Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector to supply local and global consumers with high quality, sustainably produced products.

The Ministry will report on progress toward the targets laid out in this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2018-19 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to keeping the province On Track through prudent fiscal management. We will succeed by spending wisely, supporting economic growth, and ensuring services are sustainable.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2018-19 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry helps the industry manage risk and enables a globally competitive, thriving and sustainable agriculture and food sector by supporting farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses.

Mission Statement

The Ministry enables a prosperous, market-driven agricultural industry through a supportive legislative framework, policies, programs and services.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: enhanced long-term growth, competitiveness and sustainability of the industry

Ministry Goal

Promote competitiveness and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector.

Strategy

Drive research, innovation and the transfer of knowledge through targeted investment of resources.

Key Actions

- Maintain investment in research infrastructure and science capacity to meet current and future needs.
- Collaborate with industry on research and development and technology transfer initiatives.
- Invest in effective research, development and commercialization activities.

Strategy

Create a business climate that attracts investment and supports growth.

Key Actions

- Implement the first year of programs under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).
- Assist with the development of infrastructure and labour needed to support industry.
- Advocate benefits of value-added processing in Saskatchewan and promote the province as a trusted supplier of safe, high quality products.
- Continue to work on the transfer of government-owned irrigation assets to five irrigation districts, with the goal to create a sustainable, high-value irrigated crop sector.
- Support the patrons of the Saskatchewan Pastures Program during the transition to non-publically managed operations.
- Represent the interest of the Province and stakeholders in the review of business risk management programs.

Strategy

Provide safeguards and assurance systems to protect the public, producers, productive capacity and environment.

Key Actions

- Promote awareness and understanding of environmental risks and encourage the adoption of beneficial management practices through effective programming, policy and extension.
- Mitigate the impact of production-limiting diseases by increasing awareness of biosecurity practices, appropriate antimicrobial usage, and pest resistance.
- Promote producer enrollment in livestock premises identification.
- Implement a rapid response and coordinated approach to deal with agricultural emergencies, such as animal and crop diseases.
- Work with industry to support and implement commitments made by the government in its Prairie Resilience climate change strategy.

Performance Measures

Annual crop production

A key goal of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* is to increase crop production by 10 million tonnes by 2020. In 2017, Saskatchewan farmers produced a successful harvest of 35 million tonnes despite limited moisture in much of the grain belt. While there are many variables that go into producing a successful crop, including weather, the Ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting the best crop management, production and protection practices to ensure that profitable crop production continues to increase in Saskatchewan.

Annual value-added revenue

Saskatchewan's agri-food exports are largely driven by the sale of raw commodities; however, the timing is right to also expand our agriculture value-added (processing) sector and take advantage of an increasing demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.

Saskatchewan has set an ambitious target to grow Saskatchewan's value added sector from $2.3 billion in revenue in 2004 to $6 billion in revenue by 2020. In order to reach this target, the Ministry is implementing an Agriculture Value-Added Strategy. This Strategy focuses on capturing economic value beyond primary production through increased investment, infrastructure development and innovative technologies. The value-added sector has significant growth opportunities and will be an important contributor to the success of *Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth*.

Annual livestock sector revenue

The Ministry has set a target of increasing annual farm livestock cash receipts above $2 billion by 2020. This target has already been met, as higher market prices led to the industry achieving $2 billion in farm cash receipts in 2016 and 2017. Significant global population growth is anticipated over the next 30 years which is expected to drive the continued growth of the sector. Saskatchewan has 21 million acres of pasture and forage land well-suited for livestock production, providing an excellent opportunity for Saskatchewan to supply this growing demand.

The Ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting the best livestock management, production and biosecurity practices to achieve increased livestock production in Saskatchewan.

Government Goals

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Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: expand market opportunities

Ministry Goal

Support industry to improve access to trade and capture trade opportunities in priority markets.

Strategy

Enable industry to identify, create, access and serve new and existing markets.

Key Actions

- Collaborate with industry and other ministries on incoming and outgoing trade missions.
- Undertake projects and deliver programs that assist industry in marketing Saskatchewan agriculture commodities and value-added products globally.

Strategy

Influence federal trade policy to reflect Saskatchewan priorities.

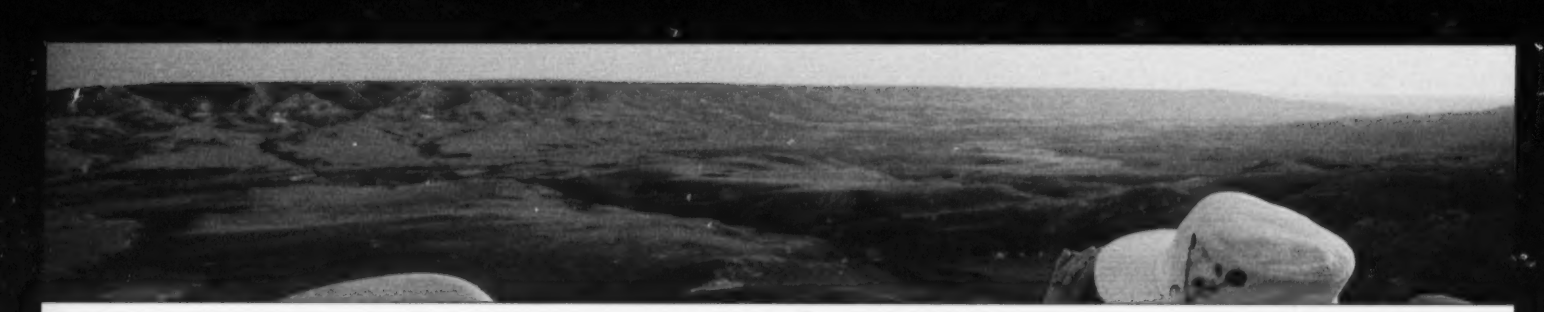
Key Actions

- Work with industry and the federal government to pursue Saskatchewan's export interests on market access issues and in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.
- Use international forums to engage with other government leaders in key export markets to advance Saskatchewan's interests.

Performance Measures

Value of agri-food exports

Under the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*, the province's agri-food exports target is $15 billion by 2020. This target was exceeded in 2015, as agri-food exports reached a record high of $15.3 billion. Due to market access issues in 2017, agri-food exports are down to an estimated $13.5 billion, however this is above the five year average of $13.2 billion. With the forecast growth in world populations and income levels, global demand for food and agricultural-related goods is anticipated to increase. The Ministry will continue to support the sector to take advantage of these emerging opportunities by expanding market presence, influencing federal trade negotiations and collaborating with industry.



Government Goals

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Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: enhanced client service

Ministry Goal

Effective development and delivery of programs and services focusing on the needs of clients.

Strategy

Implement modern service delivery tools and techniques.

Key Actions

- Building a new Enterprise Crown Land Management System that will provide clients and the public with better access to Crown lands information
- Implement online service delivery for Ministry programing providing clients and the public with better access to information and grant applications.
- Implement a modernized extension model that will improve technology transfer, increase program awareness and improve public trust.

Strategy

Work with clients and stakeholders to develop, evaluate and enhance programs, services and legislation.

Key Actions

- Collaborate with public and private partners to deliver pest diagnostics and surveillance services.
- Implement and monitor service standards throughout the Ministry.

Performance Measures

Percentage of clients satisfied with programs and services

The goal of the Ministry is for 75 per cent of all producers surveyed to be satisfied with the Ministry of Agriculture by 2020. In the online 2017 Extension Services Survey, 60 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the Ministry based on the question "How would you rate your overall satisfaction with Saskatchewan Agriculture service delivery?"

In order to improve satisfaction and meet the target, the Ministry will focus on using technology to improve the way clients access the broad range of programs and services. Social media, smart phones, tablets and online transacting will transform the way government interacts with and provides services to clients. As technology changes, the Ministry will continue to update its service and information delivery systems to meet clients' needs and offer programs and services supportive of their agricultural operations.

Government Goals

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Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: improved public perception of agriculture

Ministry Goal

Improve society's trust in, and acceptance of, modern agriculture.

Strategy

Identify and address society's concerns that have the potential to impact the growth of the Saskatchewan agriculture sector.

Key Actions

- Conduct research to understand and measure consumer perceptions.
- Partner with national and provincial stakeholders to implement a coordinated approach to building public trust and consumer awareness.
- Provide resources and co-ordination to support industry leadership in awareness efforts.

Strategy

Support the adoption of trusted and sustainable management practices.

Key Actions

- Work with industry to invest in, and extend, targeted research that improves farm's economic and environmental sustainability.
- Provide and communicate an evidence-based regulatory framework that considers environmental impact, animal health and welfare and food safety.

Performance Measures

Public understanding of agriculture as measured by the percentage of Saskatchewan residents with a positive perception of agriculture

The goal of the Ministry is to ensure that 85 per cent of Saskatchewan residents have a positive perception of agriculture. Agriculture plays a critical role in Saskatchewan's growth and identity. Agriculture is a progressive, modern and market-driven Saskatchewan industry, yet the average citizen is removed from direct food production. Therefore, it is often sensational media stories that influence the public's opinion of the agriculture industry and, as a result, the public may be exposed to inaccurate or biased information.

The Ministry will continue to provide factual information about the importance, relevance and sustainability of the province's agricultural industry in order to earn and maintain social licence. Efforts directed at youth will provide education on the science of agriculture, as well as the multitude of diverse career and entrepreneurial opportunities the sector offers.

Highlights

The following are key announcements being made in the 2018-19 Budget:

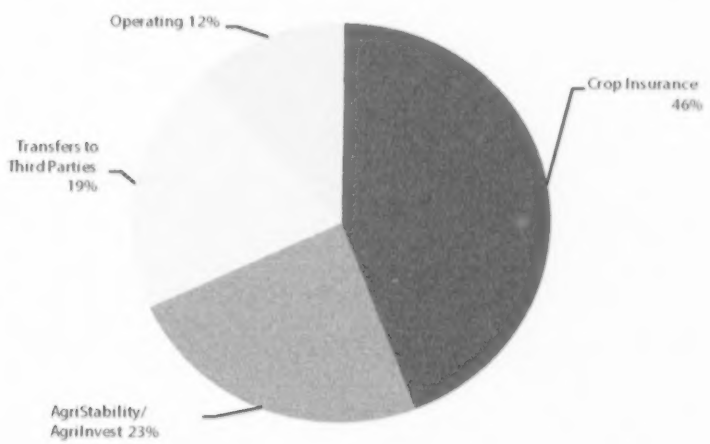
- Provide $258.2 million to fully fund the Province's share of business risk management programs. This includes funding for crop insurance, as well as fully funding AgriStability and AgriInvest.
- Provide $31.8 million to support agriculture research and development, including $3.1 million in funding for the Global Institute for Food Security, Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Organization, and the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre.
- $1.3 million for third-party grants to a variety of agricultural organizations to develop and support the industry.
- $71.2 million in Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding for the areas of:
  - Science, Research and Innovation;
  - Risk Management and Assurance Systems;
  - Markets and Trade;
  - Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change;
  - Value-Added and Agri-Food Processing; and
  - Public Trust.

Financial Summary

2018-19 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	11,032
Industry Assistance	4,449
Land Management	7,160
Policy, Trade and Value Added	5,291
Research and Technology	31,830
Regional Services	32,080
Programs	26,765
Business Risk Management	258,177
Ministry Operations Appropriation	**376,784**
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	1.849
Total Expense	**378,633**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry of Agriculture, Budget 2018-19



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/agriculture